

But God Was With Joseph (Genesis 39:7-23 *Read Vs. 20-23*)

Proposition: Every child of God can flourish under persecuting conditions by following the three instructions derived from our text.

I. Have A Godly Character In The Midst Of False Charges. (Vs. 7-20)

- A. A Godly Character Renounces Sin (Vs. 8)
- B. A Godly Character Remembers The Sovereign (Vs. 8-9)
- C. A Godly Character Removes Self (Vs. 12)
- D. A Godly Character Still Runs Into Slander (Vs. 13-20)

II. Have A God Confidence In The Middle Of Fettered Confinement (Vs. 21)

- A. Have Confidence In God's Attendance (Vs. 21a)
- B. Have Confidence In God's Affection (Vs. 21b-c)
- C. Have Confidence In God's Acquittal (Vs. 21d)

III. Have A God Consciousness In The Moment Of Favored Circumstance (Vs. 22-23)

- A. Serve For God In Acquired Circumstances (Vs. 22)
- B. Show Forth God In All Circumstances (Vs. 23)
- C. Stand For God In Advantaged Circumstances
(Ch. 41:14-16; 25)

But God Was With Joseph (Genesis 39:20-23)

If you were to visit the Boston Commons in Boston Mass. with its graceful swan boats you might be surprised to learn...

But this is the overwhelling feature of persecutions. Obediah Holmes was whipped not for doing wrong but for doing right.

The chances of you being taken to the Walnut Street bridge and publically flogged are probably pretty slim, but every Christian should expect that if you are doing right at some point you will encounter persecution. ^{in Christ Jesus shall suffer Persecution} ^{2 Tim 3:12 all them that love God}

Ryle said "The servant of Christ must never be surprised if he has to drink of the same cup with his Lord." So how do we handle it when it comes.

There have been many a persecuted

I. Have a Godly Character in the Midst of False Charges (Vs 7-8)

There is not a more fitting story for our day and time than this. Headlines are filled with those who have slipped ³ into the bed of Potiphar's Wife.

A. A Godly Character Renounces Sin (Vs 8)

"But He Refused!" He said "No." Now

Joseph was probably in his early to mid

20's He was a red blooded man no different

than any other man here. And he said "No!"

vs. 9 He called it wickedness and sin. Don't excuse

sin by changing its name. Renounce it not Rename it. ^{Hallelujah}

B. A Godly Character Remembers The Sovereign (Vs 9)

In verse 9 those last 2 words are very telling

It just doesn't stop with how low down and dirty it would be to a boss that has placed all his house into Joseph's hands, but it is a sin against God. He remembers there's more to this than a love triangle there are the eyes of a Holy God who has sin + ^{Judge} must.

C. A Godly Character Remains Self (Vs. 14)

A sure fire way to avoid falling into sin is to run away from it. That's not a soothing sensual pleasure treasure, that's a rattlesnake coiled up in the corner. Get away! Run away! No doubt for a few moments it would be self-gratifying, but the price tag of sin is too high! ⁴ Deny Self.

D. A Godly Character Still Runs into Slander (Vs. 13-2)

What an example of Godly character! Joseph did everything right. You could not ask for a more righteous and godly response to temptation than this. And yet he was still accused of and imprisoned for that which he completely refused. Just because you did right, doesn't mean that you will always ^{come out on top.}

E. Have a God Confidence in the Middle of Fettered Confinement (Vs. 21).

When one has a Godly Character one can have a God confidence. You see it is right here where God interrupts our persecution. You say preacher I'm trying to do right but it seems like the ⁵

A. Have Confidence in God's Attendance (Vs. 20a)

You may feel like a minority but if the Lord is with you, ⁶ then that minority quickly turns into a majority. Rom 8:31 God was with Joseph! Unholy the self Existent all powerful God was

1) ...to learn what once happened there to Obadiah Holmes. In 1651, Holmes was arrested for preaching Baptist doctrine in nearby Lynn, Massachusetts. He was taken to Boston Commons, stripped to the waist, and tied to a whipping post.

He later wrote: *As the man began to lay the strokes upon my back, I said to the people, Though my flesh should fail, yet God would not fail. So it pleased the Lord to come in and fill my heart and tongue, and with an audible voice I broke forth praying unto the Lord not to lay this sin to their charge.* The suffering wasn't wasted. The whipping of Obadiah Holmes deeply impacted Henry Dunster, president of Harvard, and led to the organization of Boston's first Baptist Church.

2) ...many a persecuted potential martyr that has recanted, renounced, and rescinded their faith when coming under the load of persecution. Thank God, He can interrupt our persecutions. The account of the persecution and slander brought against Joseph can teach us that every child of God can flourish under persecuting conditions by following the three instructions derived from our text.

3) ...Percentage points of pornography use among the people of God are at an all time peak. Remember persecution comes to those that are doing right not doing wrong. We have such a desperate need for Godly character that I want us to see what a godly character looks like.

4) Mark 8:34 (Jesus said) Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matthew 5:29 & 30 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out... if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, ...

5) ...but it seems like the whole world is against me! Well like Joseph here...

6) Romans 8:31 ...If God be for us, who can be against us?

1) "No evils which men can inflict can shut out the presence and favor of God from those who trust in him; and a servant in a dungeon may be more happy than a king on his throne."

2) ...word concerning His presence: **Isaiah 43:2** *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.* The Jewish church was under tremendous persecution and pressure to renounce their faith in Christ. Yet in the book of **Hebrews** we read *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*

3) **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

4) **Psalms 37:23** The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

5) **Psalms 105:17-22** He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance: To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.

6) **Job 23:10** But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

with Joseph! God interrupted his confinement right there in the middle of a jail cell, God pulled up a chair! One bible commentary said ^①
What precious promises we have from God's word ^②

B. Have Confidence in God's Affection (Vs 1b-c)

This word translated mercy here is the hebrew word "Kheh-seed" which is often translated loving kindness, all is the Love of God the mercy of God, and the grace of God all rolled into one word. Joseph experienced more of the Love of God in the prison than he ever did in Potiphar's house! When we can not trace God's ^③
hands we can trust God's heart. Rom 8:28

C. Have Confidence in God's Acquittal (Vs 21d)

When you are in the danger of persecute weather at the hands of men or of the devil God has a way of making it right. You can't keep a good man down. Ps 37:23 ^④ The steps of this good man will lead him from the prison to the palace. Ps 105:17-22 is a ^⑤
psalm concerning the Acquittal of Joseph. Have confidence that God will make it right. Joh 3:16 ^⑥

III. Have A God Consciousness in the Moment of Favored Circumstances (Vs 22-23).

Here is where many a person or family or church or for that matter nation falter. When favor is shown they forget the God that favored them. ^(Vs 22)

A. Serve For God in Acquired Circumstances

Notice that Joseph was not in his cell w/

the pouch lip saying, 'I did right and now look at where I am!' No he trusted God and endeavored to serve God where ever he was and whatever he did. He took the lemons of slender and persecution and made lemonade for the glory of God. 1 Cor 10: 30 Colossians 3: 23 Every christian is in full time ministry. Serve God (vs 23)

B. Show Forth God In All Circumstances

The keeper of the prison saw that the Lord, Jehovah, Yahweh was with Joseph. He did not say that the god Osiris or Ra (the gods of Egypt) was with Joseph. No it was Jehovah! This means that somewhere along the way, Joseph made it clear and plain that he was a follower of Jehovah and that the favor shown upon him was a result of

C. Stand For God In Advantaged Circumstances

(Ch 41: 14-15) - Fast forward in the life of Joseph, 2 years in prison later for a crime he didn't commit. But now through a series of providential circumstances Joseph is standing before the King, not under trial but render assistance to the King. Joseph you are in advantaged position. Joseph you work this right say the right thing you can help yourself

IV. Closing - Obediah Holmes flourished under the lash at Boston Commons and used persecution to further the Kingdom of God. Remember Joseph's instructions, witness a good confession. Joseph Child of God Help By Faith

- 1) 1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
- 2) Ephesians 6:5-6 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;
- 3) ...result of the favor of his God. Show forth God in every circumstance. Be God conscience!
- 4) ...can help your self." What did he do? He remembered the God that interrupted his lowest point in prison and that had shown Him favor in the most difficult of circumstances and said (Vs 16, 25)